

HOBBS AND THE ABSOLUTE STATE

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afresh. Men who style themselves realists remind us that the race is to the swift and the battle to the strong ; that men and nations live for themselves ; that behind the veil of sugary phrases lies the stark reality of force. If it be too much to say that Machiavelli and Hobbes rule us from their urns, we cannot deny that their wares are once more in brisk demand. It is one of the ironies of history that the disciples whom the author of *Leviathan* failed to find in his own country and his own time are crowding the continental stage after the lapse of three hundred years.